

ABSTRACT

In an IP-based cellular wireless communication system, systems and methods for spatially controlling cellular phone usage are provided. Entry of a cellular phone device into an area of restricted phone access ("quiet zone") is detected and an IP message identifying the 5 phone sent to a central facility. In one embodiment, an IP message is sent to the phone causing it to change behavior, for example turning off the volume on the ringer. Alternatively, the central facility can process an incoming call for a phone that is determined to be in a quiet zone to reduce intrusion in the quiet zone; for example, it can send the call to a phone mailbox or give the caller a busy signal.

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